



PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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April Farm Labor

For the Mountain I Region of the U.S. (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming), there were 23,000 hired workers on farms and ranches during the week of April 9-15, 2006, down 1,000 from a year ago. According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, hired workers worked an average of 44.1 hours during the survey week at an average wage of \$9.22 per hour, up 79 cents from last year.

There were 956,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 9-15, 2006, down 4 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 718,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 238,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.79 per hour during the April 2006 reference week, up 44 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.96 per hour, up 40 cents from last April, while livestock workers earned \$9.30 per hour compared with \$9.14 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.07 per hour, was up 35 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 40.8 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 2 percent from a year ago.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call (208) 334-1507.

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